

Ahihi-Kina'u, Keone o'io Advisory Group
May , 2004
Group Memory

The meeting began with an opening pule.

The following updates were given on continuing projects.

- The Advisory Committee's request to NARs to close certain area has been referred to the AG for a legal opinion
- The NAR Commission did instruct staff to limit access in ways they could – boulders have been placed on the road to limit parking in the area – rangers and other have been encouraging people to park and snorkel in the dumps area as it is better and safer snorkeling
- Road ownership – the State and County are unable at this point to agree on ownership of the road – conversations are beginning about entering into an MOA with each other over how to jointly manage the road – these conversations should be underway by the end of May – gating will be discussed in the MOA conversations
- There is now a body of 4 years of data collection in the area which will proceed into the future collecting the same data points would should provide good base data – the counts still show 700 cars a day going down which is consistent with the last 3 years – there seems to be increased usage on weekends except for the month of March
- Educational station operates from 9 to 1 , 7 days a week and notes 100 to 150 persons a day coming into the site where the station is located – they are able to make contact with 38% of those coming on the site which represents 18% of the total accessing the entire site
- This information is being used to determine where to best place the educational site to discourage visitors from traveling further into the site and provide the ability for better interaction between the volunteers, rangers and visitors
- The group is looking for more people interested in joining the Makai Watch which is coordinated with DLNR – it is like a community watch program for the coast
- Statewide the DLNR is trying to interact more effectively with community groups – there is a need to recognize the uniqueness of each community as they move forward
- The naturalist/volunteers in the area are working well with the rangers and this is starting to be looked at as a model for other areas
- Volunteers are also supporting and working with residents of the area to steer visitors away from private property
- The second ranger for the area has been hired – his name is Joe
- The group was provided a hand out on incidents in the area covering both illegal activity and safety responses – next meeting they will try and break it down by date and take a look at whether it is getting better or worse
- Randy of DoCAR noted that between 9/04 and 4/05 there were 594 investigations county wide and 32 were in this area –he also noted that there were 229 citations

issued county-wide and 9 of these were for this area – he also noted an increase in officer responses in the area and credits this to the rangers and the volunteers and the good working relationships that have been established

- The group noted that graduations and summer were coming up and that this usually means an increase in thefts – so everyone should be alert
- It was noted that the trial date of May 31 had been set for the person living in the NAR known as the “cave lady” and that the motion to suppress evidence needed for trial had been denied
- Maui revealed did not incorporate changes or suggestions from the group and the Department – there was a suggestion that the group look at signage for information about the area that is false – there a legal issues involved in how the book and its authors are characterized – the Department has take n the stand that the publication misdirects visitors
- The fishermen noted that they did a rubbish clean up of the area and that they will be bringing out rubbish on a regular basis – they are concerned that the fishing access for this area remain open as they are getting closed out of so many other areas on the island

The group next discussed the need to move forward on making recommendations for a management plan for the area that Randy would be putting together for the Department. They began this process by surfacing agreements about the management of the area that everyone could support as the basis for the plan. The following statements were generated:

- New management ideas are necessary
- Significant archeological and environmental factors are involved and need to be protected and identified
- There is a need to control vehicular access to the area
- Need to protect the resource
- There need to be protection for the areas outside the NARs and respect for private property
- The area needs a permanent ranger program, increased DoCAR presence, and continuing volunteer and educational programs
- Need long term management plan to reach objectives and it must include a funding element
- Fishing access needs to be maintained
- The area needs a balanced management approach
- We should not reinvent the wheel and should identify and revisit existing relevant data
- The resources need to be maintained and preserved for educational uses and for future generations
- Shoreline access for surfing needs to be considered
- PASH decision needs to be heeded in the management plan
- Some public access needs to be maintained

- Permitted uses
 - Careful on impingement of NARs
 - Depends on areas being discussed i.e. NARs/unencumbered
 - Shoreline access issues
 - Need to be defined/identified and enforceable
 - Need to not impact the sustainability of the resource
 - Need to be complimentary with each other
 - Education/information out on sensitivity of area
 - Priority is to protect ponds from use
 - Audience identification for various areas and uses
 - Outreach plan
 - Visitor plan
 - Funding issues
 - Must provide for the safety of visitors to the area

Some key next steps for the planning process would be to resolve the road issue either by resolving who owns it or getting an MOA in place – Council need to be involved in having input into the MOA if that moves forward. The Council also needs to get a bibliography from Matt as to what literature there is on the area and where or how to access it.

Public Input

- Need to provide for continuity and keep going forward – not recreate what has been done which is what is happening now
- Need to monitor what has improved and disseminate more widely to the public
- Concerns about closing fishbowls for future generations – need to be able to share in some way for education now
- The laws are already made work within them
- Director manipulates information
- Reserve is for people First Circuit Court The number of people having access should be limited
- A system to pay in advance for permits to enter should be established
- Keeping it open to the public is what we want
- Nobody has the right to say you can't go in there
- You can see the fish from shore with periscopes etc.
- Need to protect but keep open to the public
- State and County can make lots of money in this area and still preserve it
- Lets stop talking and implement some things
- Need to address everybody's best interest
- Fishermen need to be able to see their vehicles while they fish to protect them
- Reminder that environmental law prohibits segmentation – maybe do need to look at what is happening in other areas to understand the impact of decisions made here
- Education and access control should be concentrated at the sensitive ponds – so protect now with education and access control

- Should look at shutting down access until there is a plan
- What is the definition of preserve and what laws exist now to protect

The group by consensus decided to have Matt send a letter to the appropriate parties requesting more enforcement officers for Maui.

A planning sub-committee was established consisting of:

- Randy
- Hannah
- Ann
- Sumner
- Gary

The entire advisory committee will be informed of sub-committee meeting and may attend if they so desire.

A request was made that an update on the status of the demarcation buoys in the ocean for the NARs boundaries be made at the next meeting.